

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, January 23, 2003  
**Place of Meeting:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Conference Room

**I. Roll** Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arthur, Chahal, Downey, Garcia, Iringan,  
Lind, Swiger, Tsao  
Commissioners/Alternates Absent: Grilli  
City Council Liaison Present: Bob Livengood  
MUSD Liaison Present: Mike Mendizabal

**II. Alternates** The Chair seated Alternates Tsao and Downey before Commissioner Lind arrived.

**III. Pledge** Chair Garcia led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Minutes** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2002.  
Approved with spelling corrections.

M/S: Swiger/Iringan      Ayes: All

**V. Agenda** **MOTION** to approve the January 23, 2003 agenda.  
M/S: Swiger/Iringan      Ayes: All

**VI. Announcements/Correspondence**

Staff announced the following items: 1) Welcome to new alternates Charlene Tsao and Linda Downey; 2) Commissioners Recognition Dinner, Thurs., 1/30/03, 7 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel; 3) Sister Cities International Nov./Dec. 2002 newsletter and 2003 Membership Directory; 3) Contact from two cities exploring possible sister city relationships with Milpitas: Dagupan City, Philippines, and Dongguan City, China.

**VII. Citizen's Forum**

Bill Dale, who resides at 211 Smithwood, addressed the commission. He is with the CPAC emergency planning commission. He found a ham radio operator in our sister city and made some contact and will try again. If any events may be appropriate to set up the radio to contact our sister city, he may be available for assistance.

Mayor Esteves addressed the commission and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming commissioner's dinner.

## **VIII. Elections**

Staff called for nominations of Chair. Debra Garcia was named.  
MOTION to elect Debra Garcia as Chair of the Commission.  
M/S: Iringan/Lind Ayes: All

Staff called for nominations of Vice Chair. Echo Arthur was named.  
MOTION to elect Echo Arthur as Vice Chair of the Commission.  
M/S: Iringan/Swiger Ayes: All

## **VIII. New Business**

### **1. MILPITAS-TO-TSUKUBA 2003 CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Over the past two months, the commission received correspondence from Tsukuba City about visits for 2003. The visits will basically remain the same. Staff distributed e-mail from Commissioner Grilli with his concerns. Commissioners' Arthur and Garcia have a concern about our ability to provide transportation. Commissioner Arthur spoke with a representative from Tsukuba, who said they would provide a bus for transportation from the airport to Tsukuba City. They are also attempting to coordinate a way for people to stay in cabins 20 minutes away from the city offices in Tsukuba.

Commissioner Arthur noted that Tsukuba is not expecting us to provide transportation. They understand that we do not have funds for their transportation. Commissioner Grilli has found good rates in the past for transportation, which we will pass along to Tsukuba. Commissioner Grilli suggested that we reduce the maximum number of students to 8 and adults to 1 or 2. Commissioner Swiger stated that more adults should be allowed and Commissioner Garcia agreed. However, they would consider reducing the number of students to about 12. They will need to discuss this issue with Tsukuba to have this be a reciprocal number. If the number were dropped to 8, students would be limited. Commissioner Lind discussed issues about locating accommodations and behavior issues. Chair Garcia stated will talk to Tsukuba to determine their view in this regard. The general consensus among the commission was that 12 students for this trip is acceptable. Commissioner Swiger asked that the commission outline preferences for a Memorandum of Understanding with Tsukuba before June and perhaps obtain concurrence of the Milpitas City Council. Discussion followed that this is a good idea and the commission's charge under its Bylaws, and seeking permission from the Council to do so was not necessary. The commission would present a final MOU for Council consideration to adopt. Commissioner Lind suggested having events closer to Milpitas that are less costly. The commission agreed that the goal is to have the visitors spend the majority of time in Milpitas.

Commissioners' Lind and Echo will research events that are close to Milpitas and will report at the February meeting. School Board Member Mendizabel stated that summer school will not be taking place during the Tsukuba visit, however, there can still be a tour of the school or perhaps a special session could be convened. Commissioner Arthur will determine travel dates and report.

Commissioner Garcia requested further discussion on this item at the February meeting.

## **IX. Old Business**

### **2. RESEARCH UPDATE: CITY IN PROVINCE OF FLORENCE, ITALY**

Commissioner Iringan provided an update. He suggested that we should not pursue a sister city relationship at this time with Florence, since we have current interest from two other cities. Commission Garcia concurred, suggesting that the commission focus on the two cities showing

interest and table this research for now. By consensus, the commission agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**3. SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION (SCA) UPDATE**

Commissioner Garcia will report on this item in February. Commissioners' Swiger and Lind suggested that commissioners should not be part of the SCA. Staff will check with the City Attorney regarding a conflict of interest. Several commissioners had questions about assisting the SCA with their fundraising. Councilmember Livengood clarified that there are problems with commissioners participating in fundraising efforts. He recommended bringing the issue to the Council if there is a specific need for funds. Staff also noted that if needed, there is a mechanism to request a budget appropriation from Council. Although there are budget issues this year, if the association conducted effective fundraisers, then it could supplement what the City can afford for items such as gifts. Councilmember Livengood also clarified that the SCA would need to follow guidelines for fundraising and file yearly reports.

**4. SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) WEB PAGE & NEW BINDER REVIEW**

Staff conducted a brief review of new binders, suggested organization tips, and the contents. The web page review was postponed to the February agenda due to technical difficulties.

**X. City Council Report**

Councilmember Livengood reminded everyone about the upcoming commissioner's dinner. He also stated that the commission should be aware of reasons that our city is pursued for a sister city relationship. It may be less desirable when a city's focus moves away from a relationship between communities and cultural exchanges, and towards a relationship that fosters business contacts. Even though there are certain advantages to businesses being in partnership with a sister city relationship, that is not the main purpose of the commission and it may not be as beneficial to the community.

**XI. Future Agenda Items**

1. From Dagupan City, Philippines, Present Sister City Request & Requested Timeline (Feb.)
2. Milpitas-to-Tsukuba City Visit (Feb. - continued)
3. From the Silicon Valley Chinese American Computer Association and Dongguan City, China, Present Sister City Request (March - tentative)
4. Tsukuba-to-Milpitas Cultural Exchange, Budget Planning Session (March)
5. General calendar/procedures checklist for preparing cultural exchanges (TBA)
6. Discussion with Sister City Association representative (TBA)

**XII. Adjournment**

No further business was discussed with the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, February 28, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz  
Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe  
Staff Liaison